



Anthony Cormier <anthony.cormier@buzzfeed.com>

BuzzFeed News FOIA

1 message

Anthony Cormier <anthony.cormier@buzzfeed.com>

Thu, Jul 11, 2019 at 5:52 PM

To: foia@treasury.gov

Bcc: jason.leopold@buzzfeed.com

This is a request for records under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552 and the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a. This request should be considered under both statutes to maximize the release of records.

REQUESTER INFORMATION

Name: Anthony Cormier

Affiliation: Senior Investigative Reporter/BuzzFeed News

Address: 111 East 18th St., NY, NY 10003

Email: anthony.cormier@buzzfeed.comPhone: [940-321-5615](tel:940-321-5615)**RECORDS SOUGHT**

I request disclosure from the Department of Treasury Office of Inspector General the following records:

1. Copies of the report of investigation, final report, closing memo, memo for the record or file and referral letter associated with the following closed IG investigations, audits, complaints. This should include supporting documents the OIG collected and used to draft any final report, audit, or closing memo or referral letter.

OCC ID: 17-1024-1034**USM-19-0035-I****FinCEN-16-2102-****FinCEN-19-0026-****OCC-17-0813-I****BEP-18-0100-I****BANK-11-0730-I****DO-18-0075-I****BFS-18-0102-I**

Reasonably Foreseeable Harm. The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 amended the FOIA as follows (5 USC 552(a)(8)):

(A) An agency shall—

(i) withhold information under this section only if—

(I) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption described in subsection (b); or

(II) disclosure is prohibited by law; and

(ii) (I) consider whether partial disclosure of information is possible whenever the agency determines that a full disclosure of a requested record is not possible; and

(II) take reasonable steps necessary to segregate and release nonexempt information. . . .

Treasury OIG should not fail to meet the requirements of Section 552(a)(8) when processing my request and release responsive records to me in full or at least in part.

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING SEARCH

1. Request for Public Records:

Please search for any records even if they are already publicly available.

Exhibit A

2. Request for Electronic and Paper/Manual Searches:

I request that searches of all electronic and paper/manual indices, filing systems, and locations for any and all records relating or referring to the subject of my request be conducted. I further request that the agencies conduct a search of its "soft files" as well as files in its locked cabinets.

3. Request regarding Photographs and other Visual Materials:

I request that any photographs or other visual materials responsive to my request be released to me in their original or comparable forms, quality, and resolution. For example, if a photograph was taken digitally, or if the agencies maintains a photograph digitally, I request disclosure of the original digital image file, not a reduced resolution version of that image file nor a printout and scan of that image file. Likewise, if a photograph was originally taken as a color photograph, I request disclosure of that photograph as a color image, not a black and white image. Please contact me for any clarification on this point.

4. Request for Duplicate Pages:

I request disclosure of any and all supposedly "duplicate" pages. Scholars analyze records not only for the information available on any given page, but also for the relationships between that information and information on pages surrounding it. As such, though certain pages may have been previously released to me, the existence of those pages within new context renders them functionally new pages. As such, the only way to properly analyze released information is to analyze that information within its proper context. Therefore, I request disclosure of all "duplicate" pages.

5. Request to Search Emails:

Please search for emails relating to the subject matter of my request.

6. Request for Search of Records Transferred to Other Agencies:

I request that in conducting its search, the agencies disclose releasable records even if they are available publicly through other sources outside the agencies, such as NARA.

FORMAT

I request that any releases stemming from this request be provided to me in digital format (soft-copy) on a compact disk or other like media.

FEE CATEGORY AND REQUEST FOR A FEE WAIVER

I am the senior investigative reporter for BuzzFeed News and formerly an investigative reporter for the Tampa Bay Times where I was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. I intend to use these records to inform the public about actual government activity involving the Department of Treasury and its components.

I request a complete waiver of all search and duplication fees. If my request for a waiver is denied, I request that I be considered a member of the news media for fee purposes.

Under 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(4)(A)(iii), "Documents shall be furnished without any charge ... if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." Disclosure in this case meets the statutory criteria, as the records sought detail the operations and activities of government. This request is also not primarily in my commercial request, as I am seeking the records as a journalist to analyze and freely release to members of the public.

If I am not granted a complete fee waiver, I request to be considered a member of the news media for fee purposes. I am willing to pay all reasonable duplication expenses incurred in processing this FOIA request.

I will appeal any denial of my request for a waiver administratively and to the courts if necessary.



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FOIA Auto-Reply

1 message

FOIA@treasury.gov <FOIA@treasury.gov>
To: anthony.cormier@buzzfeed.com

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The U.S. Department of the Treasury has received the information you submitted to the FOIA@TREASURY.gov mailbox.

If you are submitting a FOIA request, this courtesy reply does not replace the acknowledgement letter which will include a FOIA case number once your request has been entered into our FOIA Request Tracking System.

If you are seeking the status of a pending FOIA request for which you have a FOIA case number, please call (202) 622-0930 to obtain the status of your request.

Please visit our FOIA Library at http://www.treasury.gov/FOIA/Pages/reading_room.aspx.

Thank you for contacting the U.S. Department of the Treasury.